



SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND - YEMEN

BUILDING COMMUNITY STABILITY IN YEMEN WITH SEARCH'S COMMUNITY DIALOGUE APPROACH

WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE APPROACH (CDA)?

Developed by Search for Common Ground in Yemen in 2015, the Community Dialogue Approach (CDA) is a form of local-level mediation which places community members at the heart of dialogue to resolve local conflicts. By engaging local stakeholders directly, peacebuilding skills are rooted within local populations and genuine concerns are tangibly addressed. The CDA model seeks to build **pockets of stability** and resilience at the local level. With the national peace process in Yemen still ongoing, the CDA empowers communities to build peace from the ground up, in the midst of conflict.

WHY CDA?

Scarcity of resources, limited service provision, and minimal governance require the use of dialogue processes as a solution-finding mechanism. With support from the EU, the UK government, Government of the Netherlands, UNDP, and USAID, the Search-Yemen team has refined and adapted this approach. Promoting positive engagement of Yemeni communities and local governing structures, the CDA peacefully resolves local-level conflicts, strengthens social cohesion, and capitalizes on stabilization opportunities. The CDA has three main objectives:

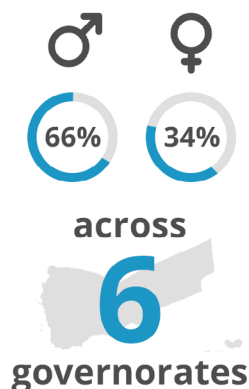
- 1 Increase stabilization at the community level
- 2 Rebuild relations within and between local authorities and community members
- 3 Enhance the role of local governance

THE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE APPROACH IN NUMBERS

We have trained

987

INSIDER
MEDIATORS
(IMs)



96% of participants outlined community dialogue meetings strengthened inclusion.

91% of participants reported a reduction in conflicts within their local communities.

13 Community Resolution Committees (CRCs) have been established across 6 governorates.

THE 4 STAGES OF THE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE APPROACH

The Community Dialogue Approach is an 4-stage process by which members of the community engage directly with local authorities and across lines of conflict.



1- COMMUNITY SELECTION AND TRAINING OF INSIDER MEDIATORS (IMs)¹: Communities are selected according to predefined criteria on levels of conflict, relative stability, and conflict vulnerability. Teams then hold sensitization meetings with local authorities, partners, and community leaders. Then, IMs are recruited within selected communities based on their prior engagement in peacebuilding activities and relevant skills. They benefit from trainings on conducting community stability assessments, designing community dialogue processes, and developing effective facilitation skills.

2- COMMUNITY STABILITY ASSESSMENT (CSA): Empowering IMs to identify, assess, and prioritize local drivers of tension as well as capacities and resources to enable peace in their local communities. Conflicts are identified and prioritized by mapping parties in conflict, assessing solvability of conflicts, and measuring necessary resources for engagement.

3- DIALOGUE PROCESSES, INTERVENTIONS, AND REFLECTION WORKSHOPS: Parties in conflict, local authorities, and community members participate in a constructive dialogue on each identified conflict which is led by IMs. They develop clear intervention action plans that respond to the needs of those engaged in each conflict. These action plans are supported with small grants which are administered by local partner civil society organizations and supervised by IMs and local authorities. Stakeholders reflect upon the intervention's impact and the extent to which conflicts were peacefully resolved, as well as capture successes and challenges and identify future mechanisms for resolving conflict.

4- ESTABLISHMENT OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION COMMITTEES (CRCs): In partnership with IMs and the local council, community Conflict Resolution Committees are formed to champion conflict resolution processes and peacefully address future emerging conflicts.

"In one of the dialogue sessions, one of the parties to the conflict wanted to throw a grenade at the other participants but the IM used the techniques for conflict transformation and prevented a real massacre from happening."

Insider Mediator

¹ Insider Mediators (IMs) lead the mediation process with a representative sample of the community. IMs are identified as being respected and influential within their communities, and may hold positions such as local council staff, tribal representatives, religious leaders, teachers, youth activists, women leaders, media actors, academics, and other such individuals.